

## News Release

# Fundraising for Artificial Turf on Ed Widseth Field at U of M Crookston Gains Yardage with \$25,000 Gift from KROX Radio

By Itollefs on Monday, August 12, 2013

The installation of artificial turf on Ed Widseth Field at the University of Minnesota Crookston gained some yardage recently with a gift of \$25,000 from KROX AM. With Ed Widseth Field used by the Golden Eagle athletics and the Crookston High School, it is essential to install artificial turf to keep the surface ready for play.

"I feel this is a very important project for UMC, Crookston High School, and the city of Crookston," says Chris Fee, owner/general manager of KROX. "My wife Tiffany and I have two sons who play football and will be playing on the field turf in the future as Crookston Pirates, and, who knows, maybe even as Golden Eagles."

Almost all football fields in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC), the conference in which the U of M Crookston competes, have upgraded to artificial turf. Not only is the artificial surface easier to maintain, it reduces injury and can handle up to six times more traffic than grass fields. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$1 million including of the initial investment necessary to build the base for the turf.

"KROX is always willing to support the kids in town, and we can't wait to see the smiles of all the athletes when the project is complete," Fee continues. "We encourage Crookston Pirate and UMC Golden Eagle Football fans to donate what they can, from \$100 to \$100,000 to make sure the project happens and the teams won't have to move home games out of Crookston again!" Bill Tyrrell, director of athletic fundraising, is grateful for the leadership demonstrated by KROX. "This generous contribution helped us surpass the \$100,000 mark in the effort," says Bill Tyrrell, director of athletic fundraising. "We are grateful for and excited by this show of support for the project and for our student-athletes. Thank you to Chris Fee and KROX for their generosity and for seeing the importance of the turf project to the Crookston campus and the community."

For questions regarding the project or to help support the effort, contact Tyrrell at 218-281-8436 ([tyrrell@umn.edu](mailto:tyrrell@umn.edu)).

Today the University of Minnesota Crookston delivers 28 bachelor's degree programs, 20 minors, and 39 concentrations on campus--as well as 11 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

In the photo, left to right, are Chris Fee; Bill Tyrrell, director of athletic fundraising; and Stephanie Helgeson, director of athletics



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